

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are currently pending and have been subject to restriction. The Examiner asserts that the claims are drawn to two patentably distinct inventions as follows:

- Group I. Claims 1-17, drawn to method of forming a decorative structure, classified in class 264, subclass 259; and
- Group II. Claim 18, drawn to decorative structure, classified in class 428, subclass *(not specified by the Examiner)*.

In order to be fully responsive to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect the claimed method of Group I, claims 1-17, drawn to method of forming a decorative structure. Applicants submit that the election is made without prejudice to the prosecution of the subject matter of non-elected claims in divisional, continuation, and continuation-in-part applications.

Applicants elect Group I with traverse. The Examiner contends that “the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification.” However, restriction is believed improper because the Examiner has not fully identified the class and subclass associated with Group II. Accordingly, Applicants are unable to fully assess the Examiner’s contention that “there would be a serious burden on the Examiner” due to the different classifications.

Entry of the foregoing remarks into the file of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. An early allowance is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,



Walter M. Egbert III
Patent Office Reg. No. 37,317
Attorney for Applicants
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10112--4498
(212) 408-2500